

**Senate File 271 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 271

BY SORENSON

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to the harvesting of grass within the  
2 right-of-way of a noninterstate highway by the owner of  
3 property adjacent to the highway.  
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 317.11, Code 2011, is amended to read as  
2 follows:

3 **317.11 Weeds on roads — harvesting of grass.**

4 1. The county boards of supervisors and the state department  
5 of transportation shall control noxious weeds growing on the  
6 roads under their jurisdiction. Spraying for control of  
7 noxious weeds shall be limited to those circumstances when it  
8 is not practical to mow or otherwise control the noxious weeds.

9 2. a. Nothing under this chapter shall prevent the  
10 landowner from harvesting, in proper season on or after  
11 July 15, the grass grown on the ~~road-along~~ portion of the  
12 right-of-way beyond the shoulder of a noninterstate highway  
13 that is adjacent to the landowner's land except for vegetation  
14 maintained for highway purposes as part of an integrated  
15 roadside vegetation management plan which is consistent with  
16 the objectives in section 314.22.

17 b. With approval of the department of transportation or the  
18 county board of supervisors of the county having jurisdiction  
19 over the highway, a landowner may harvest the grass growing  
20 within the median of a noninterstate highway that runs adjacent  
21 to the landowner's land.

22 EXPLANATION

23 Current law allows a landowner to harvest grass grown on  
24 the road along the landowner's land, except for vegetation  
25 maintained for highway purposes as part of an integrated  
26 roadside vegetation management plan. This bill amends that  
27 provision to specify that it applies to the portion of the  
28 right-of-way beyond the shoulder of a noninterstate highway.  
29 In addition, the bill allows a landowner whose property runs  
30 adjacent to a noninterstate highway to harvest the grass grown  
31 within the median of the highway with the approval of the  
32 department of transportation or the county board of supervisors  
33 of the county having jurisdiction over the highway.